

REMARKS

Claims 30-31, 33, 37-38 and 49-78 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 68-78 are added, and claims 30-31, 33, 37-38 and 49-62 are amended for clarity and consistency. New claims 68-78 are based upon claims 30-31, 33, 49-55 and 63, respectively.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement dated November 28, 2000. On November 28, 2000 an IDS was filed identifying JP 07-036029. An initialed PTO Form 1449 for the November 28, 2000 IDS was returned to Applicants as an attachment to the August 15, 2001 Office Action. Most of the references identified on the IDS were acknowledged; however, JP 07-036029 was not acknowledged. Accordingly, Applicants request the return of a signed PTO Form 1449 acknowledging consideration of JP 07-036029. A copy of the November 28, 2000 PTO-Form 1449 is attached for the Examiner's convenience. Consideration of the references identified in the attached IDS also is requested.

II. Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 30, 33, 37, 49, 52, 56-58 and 60-67 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Nakazawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,736,278); and rejects claims 31, 38, 50-51, 53-55 and 59 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakazawa. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nakazawa has a §102(e) date of June 20, 1996. Attached to this Amendment are verified translations of the five priority documents, each of which has a filing date prior to the §102(e) date of Nakazawa. Specifically, the priority documents support this application's claims and have the following filing dates: JP 7-180481 (07/17/95), JP 7-268899 (10/17/95),

JP 8-24515 (02/09/96), JP 8-94551 (04/16/96), and JP 8-94552 (04/16/96). Accordingly, Nakazawa is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The rejections are therefore moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Translator's Verification

Certified Translations of Priority Documents:

JP 7-180481; JP 7-268899; JP 8-24515; JP 8-94551; and JP 8-94552

Amendment Transmittal

Copy of November 28, 2000 PTO Form 1449

Information Disclosure Statement

Date: February 9, 2006

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